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PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ  
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DE RUEHAH #0266 0530707  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0327  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 3423  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1241  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1108  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 1677  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2256

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000266

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAIR](#) [MARR](#) [AMED](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: AGREEMENT REACHED ON PROCEDURES  
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL FLIGHT CLEARANCE

REF: A. 07 ASHGABAT 1255

[1](#)B. 07 ASHGABAT 1281

[1](#)C. 07 ASHGABAT 1303

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

[1](#)2. (SBU) MFA and Embassy officials agreed February 21 on a procedure for expeditiously approving landing clearances for civilian emergency medical flights contracted by the Embassy.

This new procedure, which entails faxing the request and confirming receipt by phone, should ensure a two-hour turnaround for all requests of this type. In addition, MFA Consular officials promised that each request would be approved and provided the Embassy with two functioning duty phone numbers that are answered 24-hours/day.

[1](#)3. (SBU) When Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov informed the Embassy on November 26, 2007, that the Government of Turkmenistan agreed to renew annual blanket overflight and landing clearance for OEF-related flights (request number 999C), he confirmed that it would not do the same for civilian emergency medical flights (Refs. A and B). Requests by the Embassy for landing clearance for SOS International emergency medical flights henceforth would be handled on a case-by-case basis. Meredov agreed, however, that MFA would respond to requests within a few hours rather than within 24 hours as the Turkmenistan government had originally proposed.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Nevertheless, this still left us concerned because DAO has had problems contacting officials at MFA to deal with military clearance issues on weekends or late at night. Therefore, the Embassy sought a meeting with MFA Consular Affairs officials (who are responsible for approving international landing clearances) to nail down a procedure that would guarantee rapid approval regardless of time or day of the week.

[1](#)5. (SBU) COMMENT: Although post's use of emergency medical flights has been rare, it is crucial that we be able to

rapidly bring in medevac flights, if the need arises.  
Blanket clearance provided that level of assurance, and the  
new procedure should as well. END COMMENT.  
HOAGLAND